

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 04064 131009Z

21

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 IO-14 SR-02 ORM-03 DRC-01 /149 W

----- 001266

R 130910Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2882

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STOCKHOLM 4064

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CI, SW

SUBJECT: SWEDISH INTEREST IN CHILE REMAINS HIGH

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. SWEDISH INTEREST IN CHILEAN AFFAIRS IS CONTINUES AT A HIGH LEVEL AND THERE IS NO SIGN OF IT DIMINISHING IN NEAR FUTURE. LATEST INTENSIVE CAMPAIGN WAS KEYED TO SEPT. 11 ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE COUP IN CHILE. IT FEATURED RALLIES, MARCHES, SPEECHES AND STATEMENTS BY MOST PROMINENT LEADERS INCLUDING FOREIGN AND PRIME MINISTERS, HEAVY MEDIA COVERAGE, POSTERS, VISITS BY PROMINENT CHILEAN REFUGEES SUCH AS FORMER JUSTICE MINISTER SERGIO INSUNZA. FOR SEVERAL DAYS CHILE HAS BEEN THE NUMBER ONE STORY HERE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE BIGGEST EVENT SO FAR WAS A DEMONSTRATION AT CHILEAN EMBASSY SEPT. 11 WITH ABOUT 5,000 PRESENT. ANOTHER DEMONSTRATION IS EXPECTED THERE TODAY IN HONOR OF ARRIVAL OF NEW CHILEAN AMBASSADOR DR. SVANTE TORNVALL, WHO WILL CER-

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PAGE 02 STOCKH 04064 131009Z

TAINLY HAVE AN UPHILL JOB. ACTIVITIES ARE EXPECTED TO

PEAK OVER THE COMING WEEKEND WITH MORE RALLIES AND A LARGE PROGRAM AND RALLY IN STOCKHOLM'S OLD PARLIAMENT BUILDING.

3. THE USG IS GETTING CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION, FUELED BY THE CIA INVOLVEMENT STORIES. WORST YET WAS SEPT. 11 BIG HEADLINE IN AFTONBLADET "KISSINGER HELPED THUGS TO POWER IN CHILE." THIS STORY CARRIES LARGE PICTURE OF JUNTA GROUP WITH PRESIDENT NIXON AND SECRETARY KISSINGER FACES SUPERIMPOSED SO THAT THEY APPEAR MEMBERS OF JUNTA. CAPTION BELOW PICTURE MENTIONS THAT IT COMES FROM SOMETHING CALLED "CHILE BULLETIN NUMBER 2."

4. NO SWEDISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, HAVE MADE ANY ALLEGATIONS OR COMMENTS ABOUT USG INVOLVEMENT IN ALLENDE OVERTHROW. PRIME MINISTER PALME ISSUED FOLLOWING STATEMENT FROM THE HAGUE WHERE HE IS ON OFFICIAL VISIT: "WE REMEMBER THAT ONE YEAR AGO A FREELY ELECTED GOVERNMENT WAS OVERTHROWN IN CHILE. AN EFFORT TO BUILD A FREE SOCIETY WITH EQUAL RIGHTS WAS CRUSHED BY VIOLENCE. WE REEMPHASIZE OUR SOLIDARITY WITH THE PERSECUTED AND THE OPPRESSED AND FEEL UNITED WITH ALL THE FRIENDS OF A FREE AND DEMOCRATIC CHILE. WE CANNOT DESERT THEM UNTIL THE RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IS RESTORED AND THE PEOPLE OF CHILE ARE FREE TO ELECT THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT. WE PLEDGE OURSELVES TO WORK FOR THIS OBJECTIVE TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITY."

5. DEPTH OF THIS SWEDISH SENTIMENT IN REGARD TO CHILE IS EVIDENCED BY BITTER TONE OF CONSERVATIVE SVENSKA DAGBLADET, A NEWSPAPER WHICH WAS HEAVILY CRITICAL OF ALLENDE WHEN HE WAS ALIVE. IN SEPTEMBER 12 EDITORIAL PAPER SAID: "...THE REVOLT WAS CARRIED OUT AND FOLLOWED THROUGH WITH A MURDEROUS BRUTALITY AND DETERMINATION THAT RECALLED HITLER'S MACHTUBERNAHME. THESE RAVAGINGS BY THE JUNTA HAVE BEEN THE MAIN REASON WHY THE DEBATE, NOT THE LEAST HERE IN SWEDEN, ALMOST COMPLETELY HAS BEEN DEALING WITH WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THE REVOLT, NOT ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENTS THAT LED UP TO IT....ALLENDE'S MISTAKES SEEM SMALL AND HARMLESS IN COMPARISON TO WHAT THE JUNTA CAN BE ACCUSED OF...."

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PAGE 03 STOCKH 04064 131009Z

6. NEWSPAPERS, TV AND RADIO ARE VIRTUALLY SATURATING SWEDEN WITH CHILE, AND THERE IS LITTLE ATTEMPT AT CHECKING FACTS. A GOOD EXAMPLE: BOTH SWEDISH CHANNELS START THEIR EVENING SHORT NEWSCASTS WITH A TELETYPE FLASH TICKER WITH THE LEAD STORY--THE TICKER ALL EVENING SEPT. 10 CARRIED BULLETIN "30,000 KILLED BY JUNTA...." THIS STORY, INCIDENTALLY, CAME FROM AN ORGANIZATION CALLED THE "CHILE COMMISSION" WHICH SAYS IT IS AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION

ACTIVELY INVESTIGATING CRIMES OF THE MILITARY JUNTA IN CHILE. WELL KNOWN SWEDISH AGITATOR ON VIETNAM HANS GORAN FRANK IS SECRETARY GENERAL OF THIS COMMISSION. CHILE, REFUGEES (OF VARIOUS NATIONALITIES) IN SWEDEN NOW REPORTEDLY TOTAL 1200.

7. COMMENT. THE SWEDISH INTEREST IN CHILE HAS NOT FADED AND IS NOW AS INTENSE AS IT WAS LAST FALL WHEN SWEDEN'S FLAMBOYANT AMBASSADOR HARALD EDELSTAM WAS FILLING OUR SCREENS (HE IS STILL ONE OF THE STARS HERE). WE DO NOT PRETEND TO FULLY UNDERSTAND THE SWEDISH PSYCHE BUT IT IS APPARENT THAT THIS CHILE OBSESSION IS AT LEAST PARTLY A TRANSFERRAL FROM THE EARLIER OBSESSION WITH VIETNAM. THE MAJOR DIFFERENCE IS THAT THE USG HAS BEEN LESS INVOLVED, AND THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN CAREFUL TO REFRAIN FROM CRITICIZING THE USG, AT LEAST DIRECTLY, IN REGARD TO CHILE. THIS INTEREST IS NOT BEING WHIPPED UP BY A FEW AGITATORS-- AND IS NOT STRICTLY A YOUTH AND LEFTIST AFFAIR, BUT RATHER SPANS ALL SHADES OF POLITICAL OPINION. IT HAS NOT REACHED THE SAME PROPORTIONS AS THE GREAT OBSESSION WITH VIETNAM AND IS NOT LIKELY TO. HOWEVER, IT IS CERTAINLY THE LEADING FOREIGN ISSUE HERE AT THE MOMENT. IT SEEMS THAT SWEDES IN GENERAL NEED A VISIBLE DEVIL, AND THE CHILEAN JUNTA HAS STUMBLER INTO THAT ROLE. STRAUZ-HUPE

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